Private

Seems to be wrt July 1st 59

As to the matter of which you speak, the religious faith of Mrs. B. & her sister & family, I sympathise with very much you say. I think if I had time for a talk with you, I could in some degree explain the matters, & remove it may be some of your difficulty. — The whole family are notoriously secretive, as the phrenologists would say; their personal & family affairs, feelings, & experiences, they keep very strictly to themselves. This will, in part, account for the course of conduct which led to your remarks. I think Then, as to Mrs. C. & Caroline, they have seen so much of the cant & superficiality of religious professions here, that I can readily conceive of their being driven to an opposite extreme of indifference to every savouring of religious conversation or profession in any form

This, I am aware, does not fully reach the difficulty you express, which you suppose to lie deeper. I cannot easily believe Mrs. C. destitute of religious faith, — I mean, according to our definition & understanding of the term. — I think it too probable that her children may have had less direct instruction and training than they should have had; but to give it to them, in any of the ordinary & established methods of Church & Sunday School was quite impossible, as the families both at Boston & Weymouth were situated — driven from the Churches which they had attended. — I think, I cannot but hope, that these & kindred reasons will explain what ~~trouble~~ seemed to you the deficiency.